

## **ARTICLE 4 - GENERAL BYLAW FOR LONE TREE HILL, BELMONT CONSERVATION LAND**

### The Property

Lone Tree Hill, Belmont Conservation Land is the former McLean Open Space, consisting of land acquired by the Town from McLean Hospital in 2005 and a publically accessible portion of McLean-owned land, governed by Conservation Restrictions, and totaling some 119 acres. The Conservation Restrictions on the property are preserved in perpetuity meaning that no development can happen on this special land. This conservation-restricted land that has been deemed to provide significant and/or historic landscapes, landscape features and significant scenic beauty and opportunities for passive recreation consistent with the protection of open space and habitat and consists of mature forest, fields, meadows, scrub pine forest, vernal pools and wetlands.

### The Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill

The land is open and invites public use on the many trails and is managed by the Land Management Committee for Lone Tree Hill, created by the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Belmont and McLean Hospital. The committee consists of nine members, four from Belmont, four for McLean and one from The Trustees for Reservations, holder of the deed Conservation Restrictions. The work of the Committee is funded by the McLean Open Space Maintenance Fund created by the original McLean transaction, by the revenue from the cell tower in the inactive cemetery land as well as by generous grants from local land preservation/conservation groups; it is not funded by Belmont property tax. Groups such as the Judith K. Record Memorial Conservation Fund, New England Mountain Bike Association, Belmont Citizens Forum and Belmont's Eagle Scout candidates and volunteers from Belmont Serves contribute time, talent and funds to allow the Committee to achieve its objectives for the property.

### Why a General Bylaw is Needed

The Land Management Committee had developed rules for the use of Lone Tree Hill. When we have turned to the Belmont Police to enforce some of the rules, we've been advised that we need to adopt a General Bylaw to allow the issuance of non-criminal tickets, a procedure the Town uses to enforce many of our Bylaws. The typical situations at Lone Tree Hill involve drinking, setting up and using tents, shooting bows and arrows or air rifles, and most recently even the installation of maple-sap taps on ten of the trees. None of these activities is in concert with the conservation and preservation values for the site or permitted by the Conservation Restrictions.

The General Bylaw presented for vote at Town Meeting articulates the rules for the property and allows the Police and others named by the Board of Selectmen to enforce the rules.

### Please Visit Lone Tree Hill

The main entrance to Lone Tree Hill located at 251 Mill Street and includes a small parking lot. The trail map can be viewed and downloaded from the Town website as well as studies, projects, and goals and objectives.

[http://www.belmont-ma.gov/Public\\_Documents/BelmontMA\\_BComm/landmanagement/mclean](http://www.belmont-ma.gov/Public_Documents/BelmontMA_BComm/landmanagement/mclean)

We want more visitors to the property; drive to Mill Street and park in the lot, walk or bike to the property and enjoy the trails, the nature, the sunsets, the peace and the vistas ! Please "take a walk in the wild" at Lone Tree Hill, Belmont Conservation Land.

We ask your support of Article 4 at Annual Town Meeting to help us preserve this Conservation Land.